

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.1% (1,314) reside in the Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (249) of Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.9% of admissions from the Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 25.1% were female.
- Over 53.4% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 85.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 5.0% were black non-Latino, 6.6% were Latino, 0.8% were Asians, and 2.4% were other racial categories.
- 67.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.1% were married, and 13.6% reported not to be married now.
- 21.3% of admissions had less than high school education, 49.6% completed high school, and 29.1% had more than high school education.
- 42.4% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 14.7% of those admitted were homeless.
- 8.42% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,419	1,261	427	374	243	249	194
FY '96	1,367	1,192	482	379	229	243	174
FY '97	1,398	1,235	414	337	203	272	220
FY '98	1,395	1,166	389	323	164	333	245
FY '99	1,382	1,151	409	297	154	407	326
FY '00	1,437	1,200	424	270	140	363	291
FY '01	1,314	1,042	391	289	136	321	249

- Since FY 1995, residents of Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District reported a 29% increase in heroin use, while alcohol and crack use decreased by 17% and 44%, respectively.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana and cocaine use have remained fairly steady.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fifth Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	60.3%	21.4%	9.8%	4.1%	1.2%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was level with the State average, alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug was higher, and heroin and crack were lower within your District.